

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 181 - 260 are pending in the application. Early consideration and allowance of claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants withdraw their Request for Refund Due To Cancellation of Claim under 37 C.F.R. § 1.117 that was submitted requesting a refund of any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 (h), (i) or (j) or under § 1.492(d), (e), or (f) paid on or after October 1, 2003, for such cancelled claims. This Preliminary Amendment and the Withdrawal of the Request for Refund are submitted before an examination on the merits of the application has been made.

With this response, the application is believed to be in condition for early action on the merits. Should the examiner deem a telephone conference to be of assistance in advancing the application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 312.321.4200.

December 9, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

/James A. Collins/

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